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INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 001730

NOFORN
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/29/2034 TAGS: [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CU](#) [RS](#)

REF: STATE 40419

Classified By: Acting Political M/C David Kostelancik. Reasons 1.4 (b) , (c), and (d).

¶1. (S/NF) Summary: GOR officials and outside experts told us the Cuba-Russia relationship had not significantly changed since Raul Castro became

No Strong Preference for Raul or Fidel

¶2. (S/NF) The MFA's Cuba desk told us June 23, and outside experts subsequently confirmed, that Russia did not have a preference for working w

Russian Priorities: Cuba or Venezuela?

¶4. (S/NF) Both MFA officials and outside experts declined to prioritize Russia's relations with Cuba and Venezuela. Russia has a longer histor

¶5. (S/NF) Leaders of Cuba and Venezuela have participated in high-profile visits with Russia officials, including President Medvedev. Palacio

¶6. (S/NF) Russia's bilateral trade with Venezuela totals more than USD 700 million, while trade with Cuba totals about USD 280 million. Davydc

Russian Military Operations in Cuba

¶7. (S/NF) GOR officials told us there were no plans to establish military bases in Cuba. They added that the GOR was unlikely to deploy any lc
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Working with Cuban Officials

¶8. (S/NF) When asked about their working relationship with their Cuban counterparts, GOR officials declined to comment. BEYRLE